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Letter dated 14 May 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

So-called Lord Resistance Army (LRA) in northern Uganda

On instructions from my Government, I would like to bring the following to the attention of the Security Council.

For many years now a vicious rebel group, the self-styled Lord Resistance Army, has been terrorizing people of northern Uganda. They have abducted children, raped girls and committed all manner of atrocities against unarmed civilians. The Government of Uganda has been pursuing these bandits.

In April 2002, our army entered the Sudan, after reaching an agreement with the Government of the Sudan, and uprooted Kony from the Kit Valley and the Imatong Hills, which he had turned into permanent bases from which he sprang to kill people in Uganda and, then went back to his safe location (southern Sudan). After the army dislodged Kony and forced him to release a lot of abductees, he entered Uganda, thinking that that would stop us from maintaining our forces in the Sudan so that he would be able to go back in safety. They tried to spread the terrorism to Teso, Lango, Kaberomaido and Adjumani Districts. All these efforts were defeated. That is why the remnants of Kony have now returned to the Acholi area. They are very much weakened, the bulk of their forces having been disseminated.

We are therefore sure of final victory and soon. In fact, we regard the present operations as mopping-up ones. Nevertheless, since some years ago, we have been open to a quicker option to solving this problem through the peaceful resolution of the conflict. We therefore, wish to reiterate our earlier call (2002) for the terrorists to end their evil campaign and have a dialogue with us so that this problem may be resolved.

Despite our having worked with different mediators (President Carter, St. Egidio, Archbishop Odama's group, Bishop Onono's group, Chief Ojwak and, recently, a certain Western (Government), the terrorists have never shown any inclination to use this peaceful option, which would exonerate them from the numerous crimes against humanity they have committed. This was partly because they thought they could commit these crimes with impunity. The killing of many of their leaders in the last 10 months has shown them, hopefully, that there is a price

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for those crimes. *The wage of sin is death.* Nevertheless, we are renewing our readiness to talk with the terrorist leaders, either directly or through intermediaries, in order to expeditiously resolve this problem. As we have told them through intermediaries in the past and also directly through broadcasts, if they indicate, through intermediaries, that they are ready to give up their terror campaign and move to mutually agreed assembly areas near the border with the Sudan, then we will order a ceasefire and give them a few weeks to move to the assembly areas. Once in the assembly area, which will be monitored by mutually agreed neutral parties, they will be supplied with food, clothing, drugs, etc. Then we shall be able to talk with them about their future and any other grievances they may have.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Francis K. **Butagira**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative